

Claims

[c1] 1. A milking vacuum device for use in a milking machine for milking an animal such as a cow, the milking machine comprising a teat cup to be connected to a teat of the animal, the teat cup having a liner that divides the teat cup into a teat space and a pulsation space, and a milking vacuum source for applying a milking vacuum in the teat space, wherein the milking vacuum device comprises:

 a milking vacuum shutting-off device for shutting off the teat cup from the milking vacuum;

 a pulsation vacuum unit for applying a pulsation vacuum in the pulsation space, the pulsation vacuum unit comprising a pulse line portion and a pulsator; and

 a mounting block, the pulse line portion being provided on the mounting block, the mounting block comprising a first fastening portion for detachably fastening the milking vacuum shutting-off device and a second fastening portion for detachably fastening the pulsator.

[c2] 2. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mounting block comprises a milking vacuum connection for the milking vacuum source.

- [c3] 3. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mounting block comprises a non-return valve that is disposed in the milking vacuum connection for the milking vacuum source.
- [c4] 4. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mounting block is provided with a compressed air connection for a compressed air source.
- [c5] 5. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the milking vacuum shutting-off device comprises a hose portion.
- [c6] 6. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first fastening portion for the milking vacuum shutting-off device comprises a tube portion for receiving the hose portion.
- [c7] 7. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the mounting block comprises a first borehole connecting the interior of the tube portion to a vacuum source and with a second borehole connecting the interior of the tube portion to the compressed air connection.
- [c8] 8. The milking vacuum device as claimed in 7, wherein the device is provided with a controlled milking vacuum

shutting-off valve for selectively connecting the interior of the tube portion either to the vacuum source or to the compressed air connection.

- [c9] 9. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the mounting block comprises a third fastening portion for detachably fastening the milking vacuum shutting-off valve.
- [c10] 10. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device comprises a pressure sensor for measuring the pressure in the pulse line portion.
- [c11] 11. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pressure sensor can be detachably fastened to the mounting block.
- [c12] 12. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the milking vacuum device comprises a control unit for controlling at least a part of the milking vacuum device, the control unit being detachably fastened to the mounting block.
- [c13] 13. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mounting block is made of synthetic material.
- [c14] 14. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the milking machine comprises at least two teat cups, and the milking vacuum device comprises at least two mounting blocks, each associated with a teat cup.

- [c15] 15. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the mounting blocks can be detachably fastened to each other.
- [c16] 16. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the mounting block comprises a milking vacuum connection for the milking vacuum source and wherein, in the fastened position, the milking vacuum connections of all the mounting blocks are in communication with each other.
- [c17] 17. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the mounting block comprises a compressed air connection for a compressed air source and wherein, in the fastened position, the compressed air connections of all the mounting blocks are in communication with each other.
- [c18] 18. The milking vacuum device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the milking machine comprises a robot arm for automatically connecting the teat cup to the teat and the mounting block is capable of being detachably fastened to the robot arm.

